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United States Attorney's Office
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News Release

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Burnsville woman indicted for failing to pay employment taxes

A 32-year-old Burnsville woman was indicted this week in federal court on 18 counts of failing to pay to the Internal Revenue Service payroll taxes from employees of a construction business.

Kara Kristine Sommer was charged July 21 in Minneapolis with 18 counts of failure to pay over withheld taxes. Sommer's indictment alleges that from April 1, 2002, to Sept. 30, 2006, she did willfully fail to account for and to pay over to the IRS federal income taxes and Federal Insurance Contributions Act (FICA) taxes for employees of Frontier Construction, Inc., located in Burnsville.

Sommer was responsible for accounting, payroll management and income taxes for Frontier Construction. Her duties included withholding federal payroll taxes from employee paychecks and the paying over of withheld taxes to the IRS. From April 1, 2002, to Sept. 30, 2006, Sommer deducted and collected federal income taxes and FICA taxes from the taxable wages of Frontier employees.

The indictment alleges that Sommer withheld but failed to pay over to the IRS a total amount of taxes of approximately \$200,000.

If convicted, Sommer faces a potential maximum penalty of five years in prison for each of the counts. All sentences are determined by a federal district court judge. This case is the result of an investigation by the IRS-Criminal Investigation Division, and is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney David M. Genrich.

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An indictment is a determination by a grand jury that there is probable cause to believe that offenses have been committed by the defendant. The defendant, of course, is presumed innocent until he or she pleads guilty or is proven guilty at trial.